

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 AGRE-00 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01
/074 W

-----160559Z 092865 /15

R 151555Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4356

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONROVIA 2562

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CH, LI

SUBJECT: THE PRC OPENS ITS EMBASSY IN LIBERIA

REF: MONROVIA 1257

1. THE FIRST CONTINGENT OF PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA OFFICIALS AND
TECHNICIANS ARRIVED IN MONROVIA MARCH 30, ONE DAY AFTER THE
DEPARTURE OF THE LAST OFFICIALS OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA. THE
ANNOUNCEMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION BETWEEN MONROVIA AND PEKING
WAS MADE FEBRUARY 22 (REFTEL). THE PRC GROUP, COMPOSED OF
11 OFFICIALS, 12 TECHNICIANS, AND ONE CHAUFFEUR HAS ESTABLISHED
ITSELF AT THE DUCOR HOTEL. BY CIRCULAR NOTE, THE PRC EMBASSY
INFORMED DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN LIBERIA THAT ITS EMBASSY HAD
BEGUN FUNCTIONING MARCH 30, 1977, WITH OFFICES AT THE DUCOR.
THE NOTE STATES THAT PENDING THE ARRIVAL OF AN AMBASSADOR, YU

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MENG-YU (NO CHARACTERS AVAILABLE) WILL BE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES,
A.I.

2. CHARGE YU BEGAN HIS DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITIES IN MONROVIA BY
ATTENDING THE CEREMONY APRIL 11 PRESENTING THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS
TO PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY OF THE IVORY COAST (PRESENTLY
ON A STATE VISIT TO LIBERIA). YU TOLD THE EMBASSY POLITICAL

COUNSELOR, WHO WAS SEATED NEXT TO HIM, THAT HIS MISSION INTENDED TO RENT A CHANCERY RATHER THAN BUY OR BUILD, AND THAT HE DID NOT KNOW WHEN HE WOULD BE REPLACED BY AN AMBASSADOR. THE CONVERSATION WAS IN MANDARIN. ALTHOUGH THE CHARGE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY AN INTERPRETER, HE SAID THAT HE KNEW ENGLISH.)

3. THE TWELVE PRC TECHNICIANS ARE PRESUMABLY SUGAR EXPERTS WHO WILL TAKE OVER OPERATION OF THE SUGAR REFINERY AND SUGAR CANE PRODUCTION COMPLEX BUILT NEAR CAPE PALMAS UNDER THE IAD PROGRAM OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA. A "DOCUMENT OF COOPERATION" BETWEEN THE GOL AND THE PRC DRAFTED DURING THE VISIT TO LIBERIA OF A PRC GOOD-WILL MISSION IN FEBRUARY, REPORTEDLY PROVIDES THE FRAMEWORK FOR FUTURE CHINESE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO THE GOL IN THIS AND OTHER FIELDS.

4. REACTION AMONG LIBERIANS TO THE OPENING OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH PEKING HAS RANGED FROM EUPHORIC TO GLOOMY. A. B. TOLBERT, PRESIDENT TOLBERT'S SON WAS QUOTED BY THE GOL NEWS SERVICE AS STATING THAT THE "LIBERIAN-CHINESE RELATIONSHIP WILL ENSURE THE OBLITERATION OF SUPER-POWER EXPANSION ON THE AFRICAN CONTINENT..." AND "THAT IT WILL ENSURE AN ECONOMIC BOOM AND SUBSTANCE NEEDED IN THE COUNTRY." SENATOR W.V.S. (SHAD) TUBMAN, SON OF THE LATE PRESIDENT TUBMAN, TOLD THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR RECENTLY THAT HE FEARED THE SUBVERSIVE IMPACT IN MARYLAND COUNTY OF THE PRC TECHNICIANS WORKING ON THE CAPE PALMAS SUGAR REFINERY. THESE CHINESE, HE SAID, WOULD TEACH COMMUNISM TO THE LOCAL PEOPLE AND INCITE THEM TO RESENT THE DISPARITY BETWEEN THEIR IMPOVERISHED CONDITION AND THE LIVING STANDARDS OF THOSE (LIKE HIMSELF)

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WHO HAVE THREE OR FOUR HOUSES. MORE REPRESENTATIVE OF REACTION AMONG THE ELITE IS THAT OF ELLEN SIRLEAF, DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE, WHO COMMENTED TO AN EMBASSY OFFICER THAT THE OPENING OF A SOVIET DIPLOMATIC MISSION IN LIBERIA ALSO HAD AROUSED MUCH ANXIETY WHICH HAS PROVED ILL-FOUNDED AND THAT THE SAME WOULD PROBABLY HOLD FOR THE PEKING CHINESE.

5. THE STAFF OF THE PRC EMBASSY IS COMPOSED OF THE FOLLOWING (WHERE KNOWN, CHINESE CHARACTERS ARE INDICATED BY THE TELECODE NUMBERS: YU MENG-YU, COUNSELLOR AND CHARGE D'AFFAIRES, A.I.; MRS. HSU PIN, WIFE OF THE CHARGE; SUN LI-TIEN (1327-4539-3013), FIRST SECRETARY; CHAO HAN-WEN, FIRST SECRETARY, ECONOMIC AFFAIRS; WANG KANG-LING (3076-1481-7117), THIRD SECRETARY; CHOU FA, ATTACHE; LU YUNG-SHOU; WU KAO-CHANG, ATTACHE; CHU MIN-TSAI; MEN LU-CHING; CHU HSAO-CHING; HSU SUNG-PING, CHAUFFEUR; AND CHANG SHIH-HSIANG.

6. THE TECHNICAL GROUP IS COMPOSED OF TENG WEN-CHI, LEADER; LIN CHIH-YEH, DEPUTY LEADER; SHEN YUAN-TAO, INTREPRETER; AND

THE FOLLOWING "EXPERTS": SU SU; KAN KANG; LU YUNG-HAO;
TSAI PING? LIN PIN; TSENG MSIEN-HIU (SIC); LIEN CHIH-CHUNG;
AND NING LI-MSAN (SIC).

7. ACTION REQUESTED: THE EMBASSY REQUESTS GUIDANCE CONCERNING
CONTACTS BY U.S. EMBASSY PERSONNEL WITH MEMBERS OF THE PRC
MISSION, NOTING THAT THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR (CALVIN E. MEHLERT)
IS A CHINESE LANGUAGE OFFICER.
CARTER

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Message Attributes

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